(b) and (c) Industrial growth rates of India's neighbouring countries are not maintained.

Trade between India and Russia

2938. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed and signed trade targeted to reach at $20 billion by 2015;

(b) whether both sides call for diversification of trade into high technology areas;

(c) whether India is one of very few countries with whom Russian trade is growing rather than declining; and

(d) if so, the details of decisions taken, strategy adopted to improve trade between two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) The bilateral trade between India and Russia has been growing. During the 15th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation held in Moscow on 21st October, 2009, both the countries took note of the positive trends in bilateral trade and *inter-alia*, it was decided to achieve a bilateral trade target of US$ 20 billion by 2015. Both sides felt that this trade target could be achieved through diversification of the trade basket; focus on priority sectors such as energy, IT and Pharmaceuticals etc.; and through intensification of business-to-business contacts.

SEZs in Maharashtra

2939. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Economic Zone projects, launched in Maharashtra, which were to act as major engines of growth in exports, have not made any progress;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, the reasons for delay in implementation and their present status;

(c) the evaluation of the performance of each of the Export Processing Zones converted into Special Economic Zones; and

(d) the fresh initiatives taken to accelerate the progress of SEZs in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) In addition to the SEEPZ SEZ Mumbai, 109 proposals from Maharashtra have been accorded formal approval out of which 58 have been notified. 15 SEZs are already exporting.

(b) and (c) In terms of SEZ Act, 2005 read with the rules framed thereunder, validity of approval is for a period of three years within which time effective steps are to be taken by the developer to implement the approved proposal. On a request received from the Developer the Board of Approval can extend the validity period upto two years. Further, SEZ units are required to submit Annual Performance Report and Developers are required to submit Quarterly Report on their performance. These are scrutinized/monitored by the Development Commissioners of the concerned SEZs.

(d) Setting up of Single Window Clearance Mechanism, simplification of rules and procedures, according infrastructure status to SEZs, facility of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) to Developers under the approval route etc. are some of the steps taken to accelerate the progress of SEZs.

Concession for industries set up in North Bengal

2940. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has demanded some concessions for setting up industries in North Bengal; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Union Government is implementing special packages of incentives for the special category States of the North East (including Sikkim) and the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in view of the adverse geographical locations and other specificities of these States. Requests were received for announcing a package for the North Bengal but not agreed to as the State of Bengal does not face such adversities. Transport subsidy scheme being implemented by the Union Government is, however, applicable to the Darjeeling district of West Bengal also.

Adverse effect of East Look policy

2941. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that during last five years the two States—West Bengal and Tripura had suffered as more than a half of total factories closed down and a large number of workers affected throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether it is the result of 'East Look' policy of the Government; and